



Wildland Fire Management

Reality

**CATASTROPHIC
WILDFIRE**

**OUR #1 FIRE
THREAT**

Ranked #1 At-Risk Community in AZ



CITY OF FLAGSTAFF WILDFIRE THREAT ANALYSIS



Level of Threat

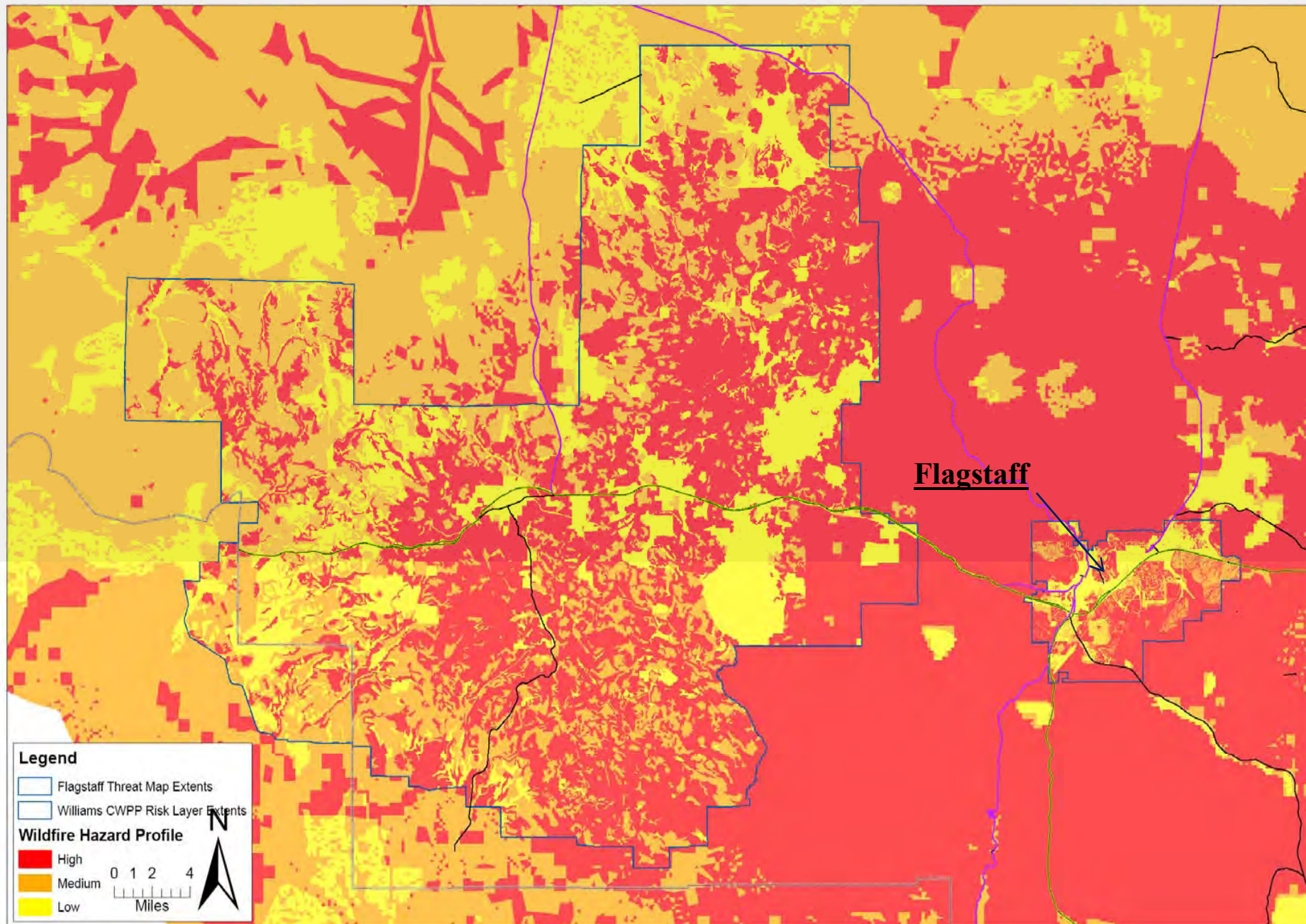


Developed using the Weighted Overlay tool in ArcGIS 9.1. Layers were developed and clipped to the Flagstaff City limits. Layers of influence include: accessibility, hydrant coverage, ponderosa pine locations, encumbrance, slope, fuel treatments, roof type, and structure risk. This map is for planning purposes only, no warranty of accuracy is implied or given.



Arizona Central Stateplane Feet
North American Datum 1983
Compiled By: City of Flagstaff GIS
May 2009

COCONINO COUNTY WILDFIRE THREAT ANALYSIS



Wildland Fire...

...not a question of "if",

but "when", "where"

and "what kind"

OVERVIEW

- **1996 Fire Season**
- **Initial Efforts (Fall 96)**
- **Staffing (Fall 97 - Present)**

Full time staff

Seasonal Fuel Crews

Student Interns

Volunteers

- **Greater Flagstaff Forests
Partnership (Fall 97 – Present)**
- **Community Wildfire Protection
Plan (Fall 05)**
- **National Firewise Leadership
Award (Spring 2007)**
- **Wildland Urban Interface Code
(Feb 2008)**
- **Four Forest Restoration
Initiative (2009 – Present)**

**CORE
TECHNOLOGY**

OVERVIEW #2

- Addresses goals of City Council:
 - Environmental Protection*
 - Sustainability*
 - Economic Development*
 - Quality of Life*
- Innovative pro-active approach to a real problem
- Unique among municipal government

STRATEGIC IN-NATURE

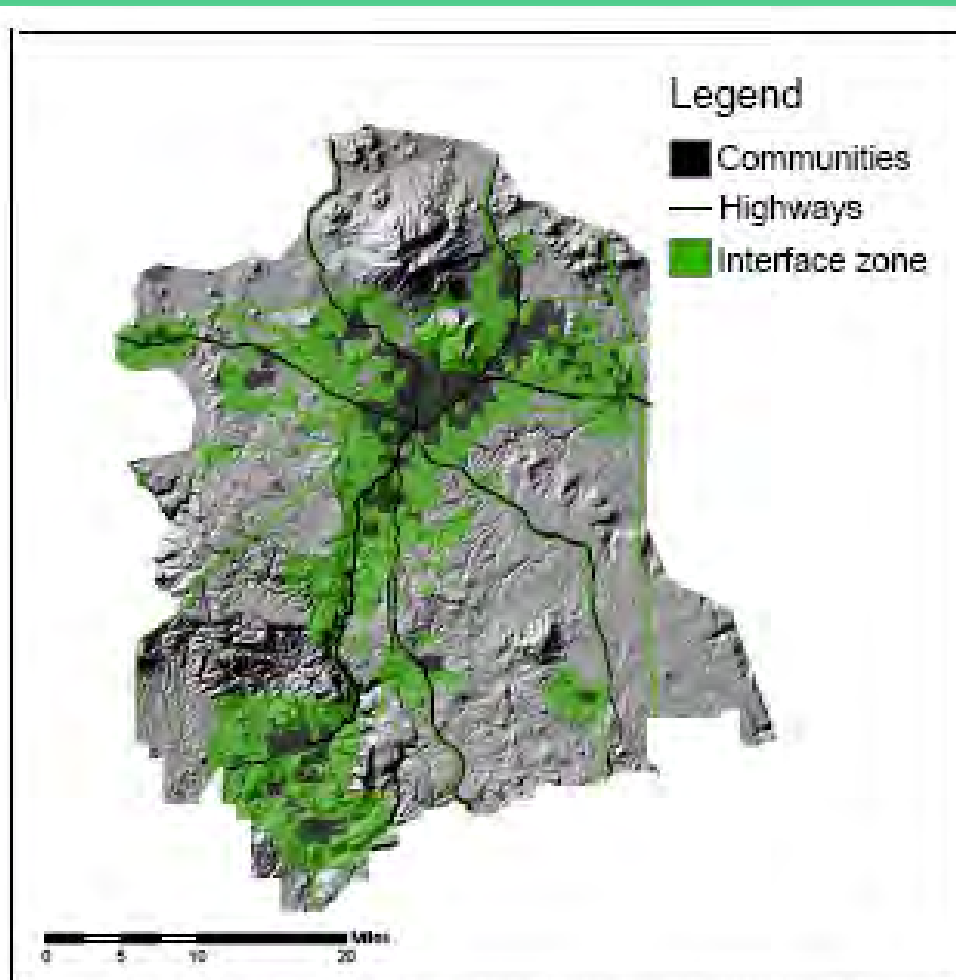


WHERE

**Traditional
“Interface”**

Areas where structures are in close
proximity to naturally occurring
flammable fuels

WHERE



CWPP FOR FLAGSTAFF & SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

WILDLAND/URBAN INTERFACE ZONE

Our View

- CWPP -

Ownership/Jurisdiction – Wildland/Urban Interface zone

Ownership/Jurisdiction	Acres	% of Total
Federal:		
Flagstaff Monuments	146	.1%
Coconino National Forest	215,166	76.7%
Kaibab National Forest	8,633	3.1%
State:		
Land Department	15,665	5.6%
Camp Navajo (Division of Military & Emergency Affairs)	8,963	3.0%
Private/Other (Includes local government)	32,082	11.5%
TOTAL	280,655	100%

Lessons:

Any time

“Big” size

Every fuel type

Fast spread

NEVER *enough resources*



Impacts

A large, billowing white smoke plume from a fire against a clear blue sky. The smoke is thick and rises high into the air, with some darker, ash-like material visible at the base of the plume. The background is a clear, bright blue sky.

FIRE

Immediate

POST FIRE

Secondary

Who

FFD Wildland Fire Staff

Private Citizens & Vendors

**P
A
R
T
N
E
R
S**

**City – Community Development
Public Works
Police Dept**

**Community: School District
Service Clubs
Businesses
Homeowner Associations**

**County: Rural Environment Corps
Fire Districts**

Who #2

**P
A
R
T
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**State of AZ: Transportation
Corrections
State Forestry
Emergency/Military Affairs
NAU – School of Forestry
Ecological Restoration
Institute**

**Federal: Coconino National Forest
Grand Canyon National Park
Flagstaff Area Monuments
U.S. Naval Observatory**

Who #3

Other Partners

Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership

Ponderosa Fire Advisory Council

Governor's Forest Health Council

NAU Centennial Forest

State-Wide FireWise Committee

AZ Dept of Environmental Quality

Four Forest Restoration Initiative

A National Leader & Model:

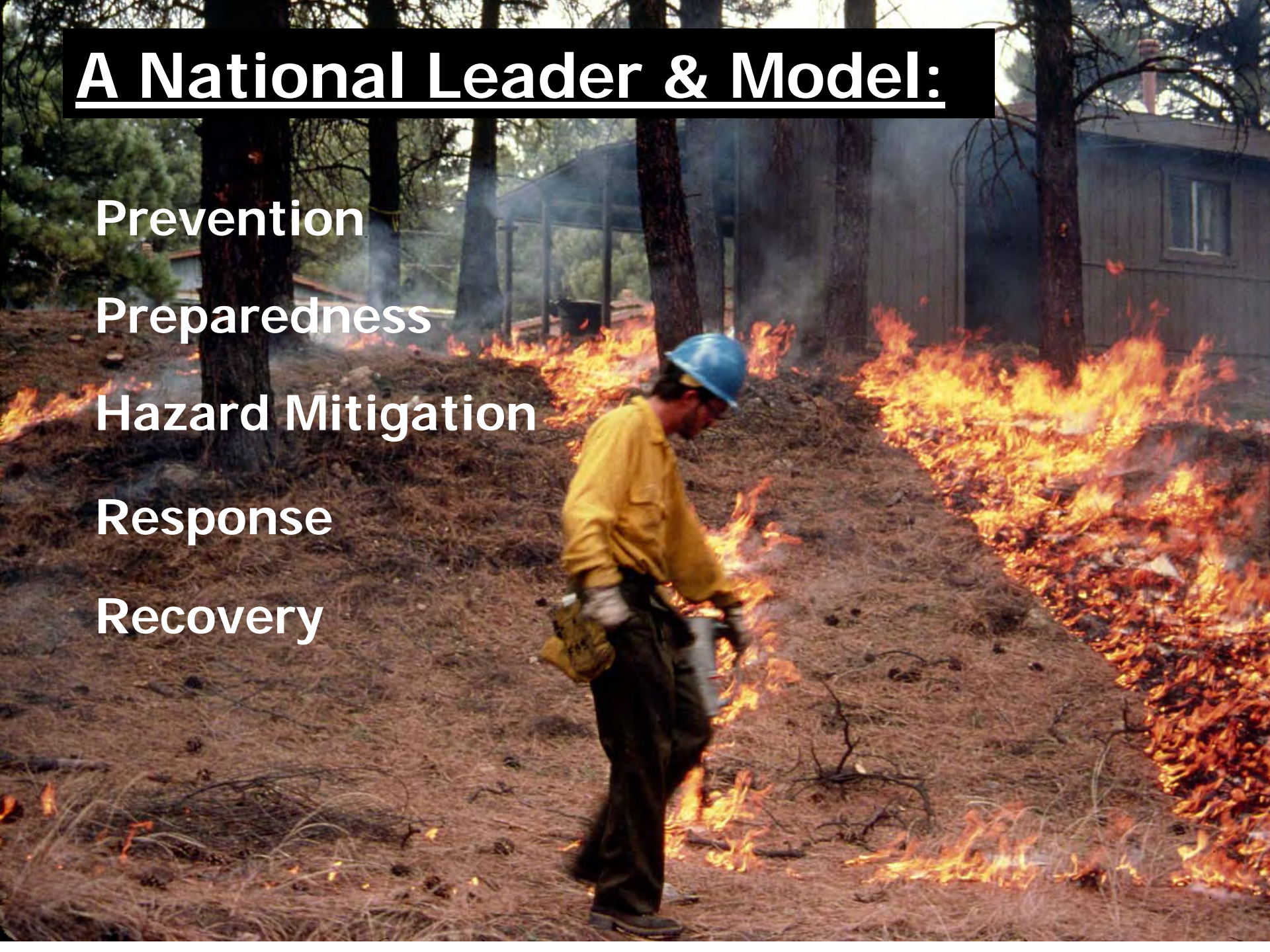
Prevention

Preparedness

Hazard Mitigation

Response

Recovery



SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



PLANNING

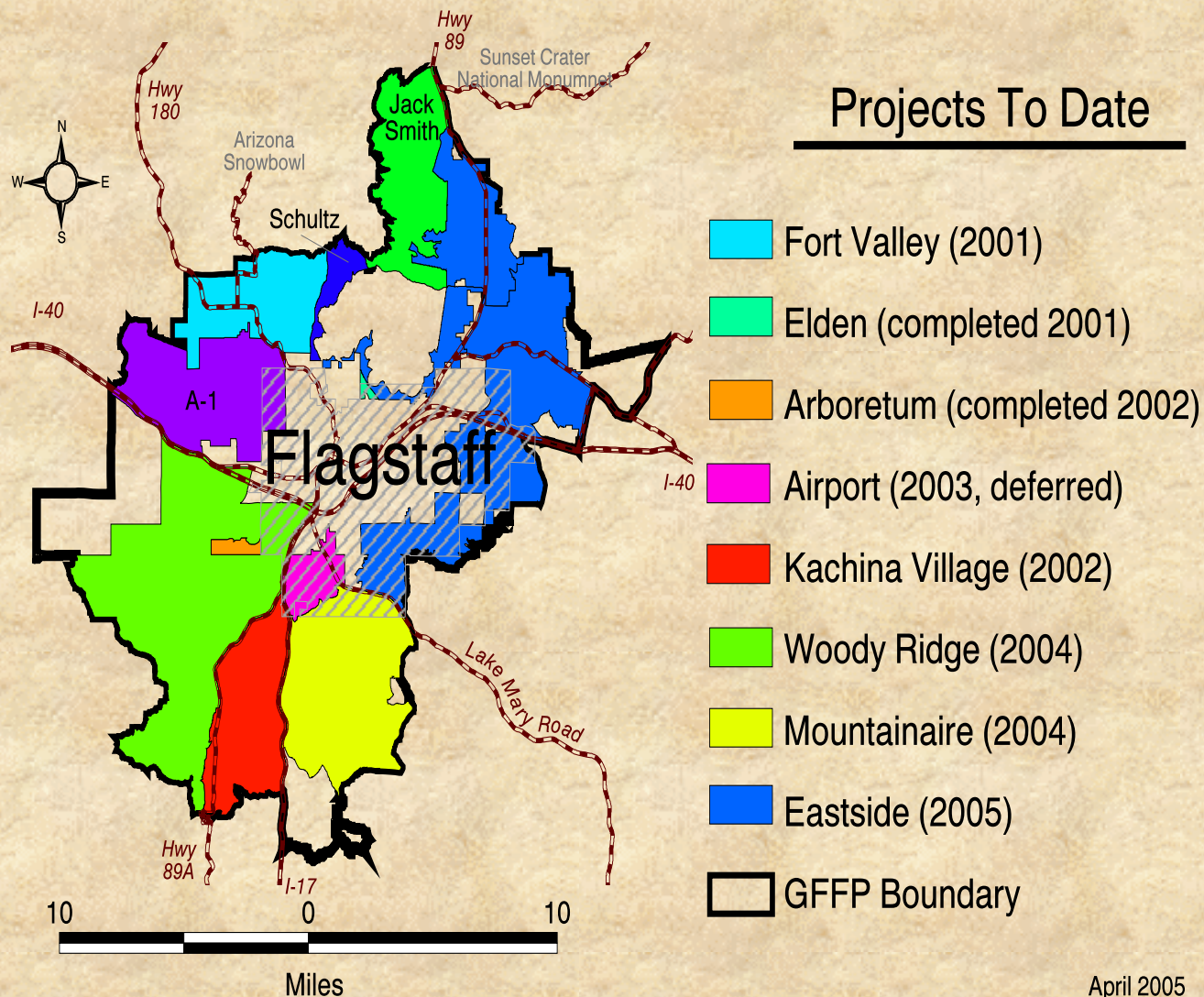
In meetings, and in the field;

**We often want to avoid these,
and simply “get after it”,
but the struggle is necessary
and worth it!**



GFFP Project Areas

Projects To Date



Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership and Ponderosa Fire Advisory Council



Community Wildfire
Protection Plan

HAZARD FUEL REDUCTION:



FREE FIREWOOD: Allows residents to see first-hand what is happening in the forest and personally benefit from the work.



CITY WELL FIELD: Demonstrated a “clumpy-groupy” approach, above that permitted by Forest Plan and above “comfort level” of some other agencies



FLAGSTAFF PULLIAM AIRPORT: Demonstrated impacts of restoration treatment on wildlife habitat (tassel eared squirrels)



STUMPS

&

SMOKE

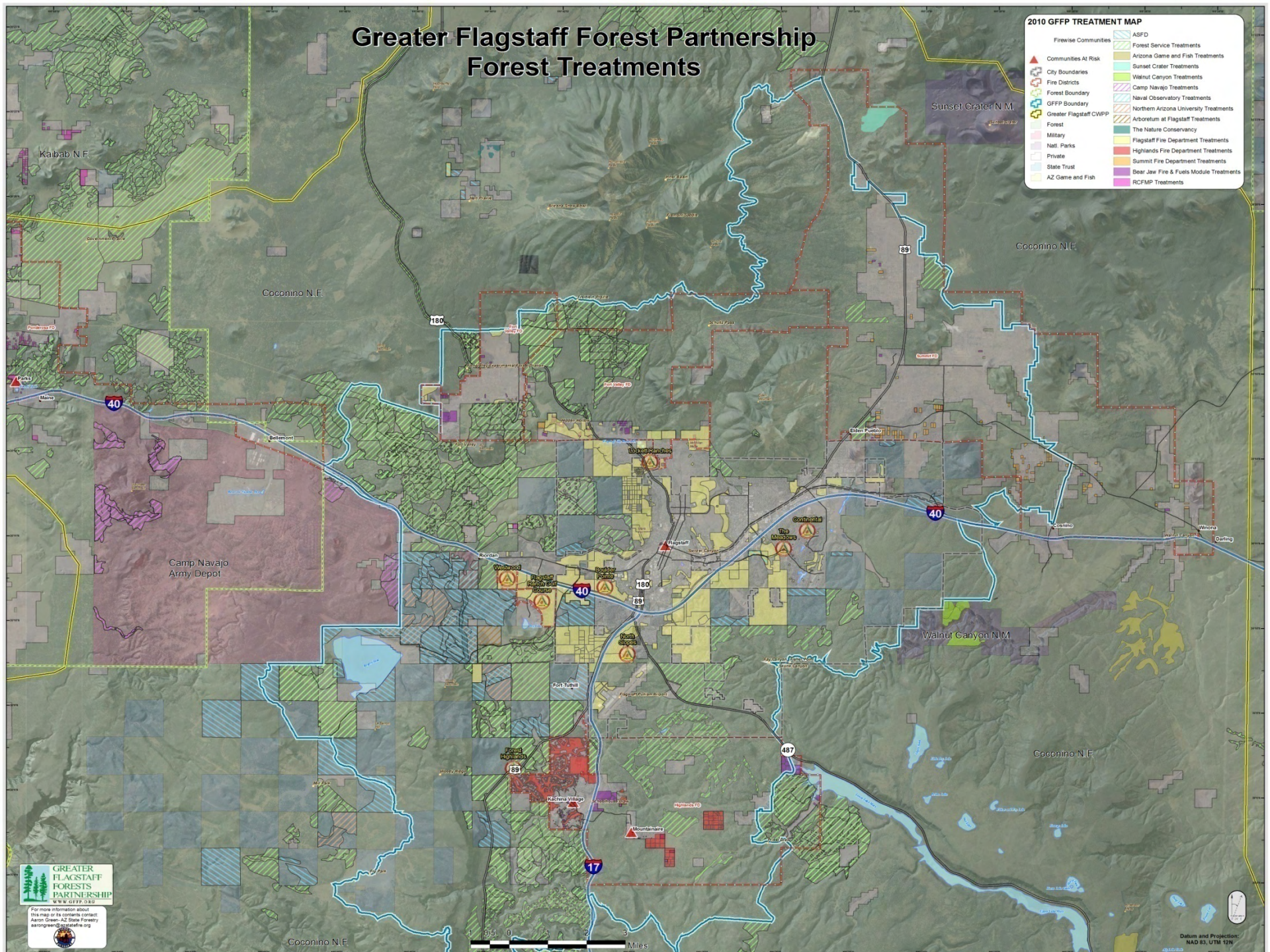
(& BIOMASS)



Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership Forest Treatments

2010 GFFP TREATMENT MAP

- Firewise Communities  ASFD
- Communities At Risk  Forest Service Treatments
- City Boundaries  Arizona Game and Fish Treatments
- Fire Districts  Sunset Crater Treatments
- Forest Boundary  Walnut Canyon Treatments
- GFFP Boundary  Camp Navajo Treatments
- Greater Flagstaff CWWP  Naval Observatory Treatments
- Forest  Northern Arizona University Treatments
- Military  Arboretum at Flagstaff Treatments
- Natl. Parks  The Nature Conservancy
- Private  Flagstaff Fire Department Treatments
- State Trust  Highlands Fire Department Treatments
- AZ Game and Fish  Summit Fire Department Treatments
-  Bear Jaw Fire & Fuels Module Treatments
-  RCMP Treatments





DECK TESTING:



Composite deck materials are becoming increasingly common – some work well, others do not.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



VOLUNTEERS



TRAINING



OUTREACH

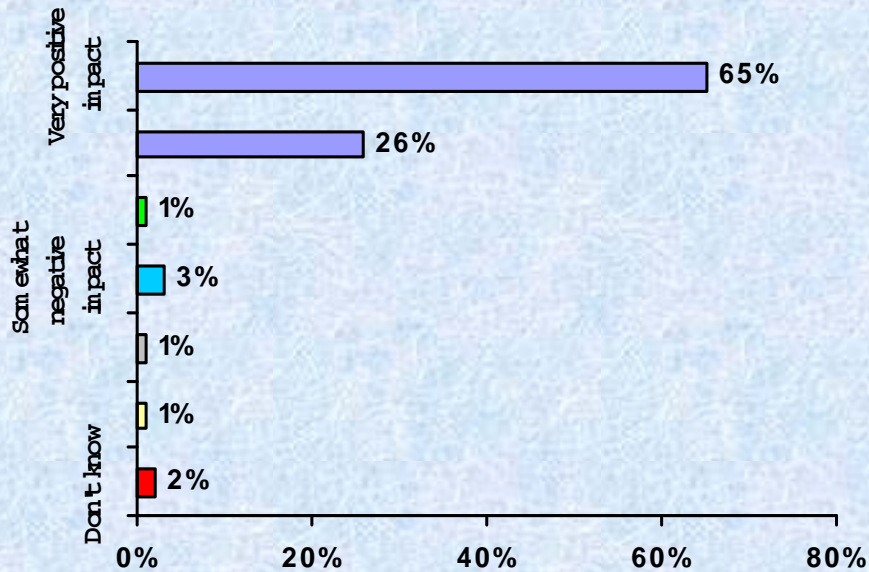


COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS

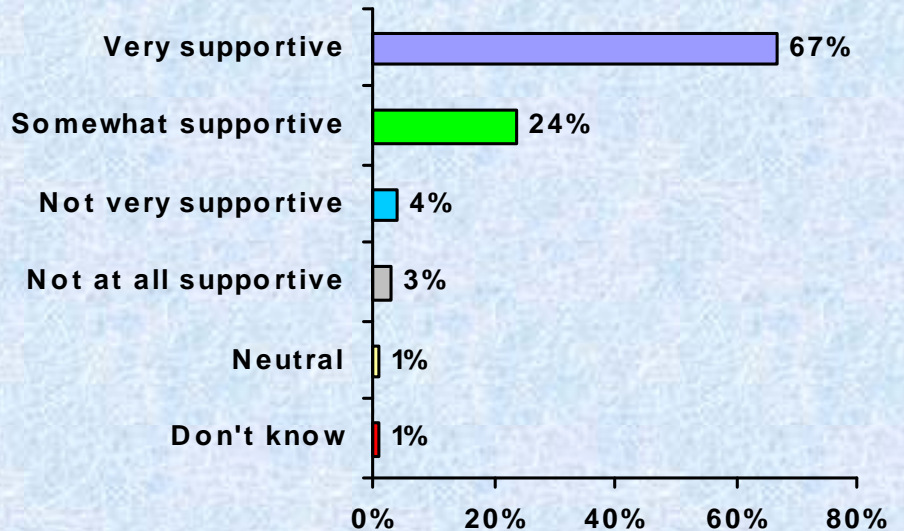
NAU – Social Research Lab: Surveys of Residents of the Flagstaff area

2006 – 606 individuals

Do forest management projects have a positive or negative impact on the health of forests?



Do you support agencies conducting prescribed burns in the Flagstaff area?



CHALLENGES:

- **Maintaining interest among “educated” public**
- **Meeting demand**
- **Tree size (≥ 12 ” diameter) & volume**
- **Smoke Management**
- **Funding**

THE 4 E's:

- *Education*
- *Engineering*
- *Enforcement*
- *Ecosystem*





Our Goal – A Healthy Forest



. . . and, a FireWise Community



www.flagstaff.az.gov/wildlandfire

